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[illegible]

taught to believe she is "so ladylike" - Fanny on
the Pond is little a touch of last winter. I'm
in ym skate with Ira; of course he is the
best to skate with. Good for ym about ym
skating. I only wish Fanny did know - I think
in spite of Mr's great delinquency its rather
fuggish of Mary Ann & pesters the girls about her

Annie E. Purvesley
in title

Feb. 14

6

bro. for I wrote her it was a great chance if he
could get them; and just as like, he hasn't bought
them at all - I had a secret letter from dear Dr
Hedge - Oh dear! my letters are what I live on -
I shall probably be in Paris, Annie; - ym might send
the duce on the chance. If ym don't, I'll get the
things. I think I shall get myself some jet earrings, but
I shall most likely want to lay out every cent I can find -
I can't help hoping we may find you at your dear old house.

To Miss Annie Bursley.

Near Cairo,
Thurs. Jan. 16th, 1869.

Dear Annie:

What a big gap there is between this date and the one I began on. I soon gave up the idea of a journal, for it would have taken 3 volumes like a novel, and fatigued your eyes and brain. We have kept a kind of journal which we shall send home, and I will ask Nathan especially to send it to you, and just finish this up with a few general remarks. We expected our letters at Sint on the way down, but they didn't come by some stupid Arab mistake, so we haven't heard a word from home or any civilized place since we started Dec. 17th. It was a horrid disappointment, but we shall get some more very soon, for we reach Cairo Saturday.

And so will end our delightful Nile voyage. Long will my nephews and grand-nieces hear the tales of wonder and delight connected therewith. I must hasten to mention that I am not engaged in the slightest degree to either of our gentlemen, although they have both been just as nice as they could be;--and I should like to bring Mr. Van Lennep to America to let you see how agreeable he is. Always good-natured and amiable. I haven't once seen him "mad" or in the least put out. Marvellous for one of his sex, isn't it? But I won't say more lest you should think etc, etc, which I'm not. I talk French a good deal with Mr. Tarvil, for he is a little awkward at English, but speaks French perfectly. He is flattering, by the way, about my French, but it is beastly. I shall miss them after we part although I daresay we shall meet frequently in Alexandria. As for the Lesleys, I don't know what we shall do without them; for Mr. Lesley is very nice--very learned, but ready for fun and accepts any amount of sarce from me--and Mrs. Lesley is perfectly lovely, sweet and disinterested and funny. The young men are devoted to her. I call her "Sister Lesley" in fun, and you ought to hear Mr. V.L. say "Seester Leslee"--when he means a joke.

We have seen heaps of ruins and hieroglyphics and cartouches, and I know lots about Rameses and Menn and no end of old coves which you never would suspect me of--though less than any of the party, for I can't pay much attention to the subject. Double Acrostics are quite scarce. Luc. and I get out the book sometimes, but Charles snubs them, and you can't expect our foreign males to be up on English Quotations, though they are well-informed. 150 is my number of guessed. It makes me mad to think that you (or rather the Hs) have the Key, for I must suspect them of taking occasional peeps, or at least giving up too soon. At present we are stuck on "My first whene'er tried is found wanting."

To tell the truth, though we've had such a splendid trip, I shan't be sorry to get into a bed I can turn round in, a room ditto,--to see a looking-glass and take a reasonable bath--nearly five weeks in a small cabin the size of my closet at home is enough. If it were only America we were steaming to! Dear Annie, every night I count the months that are gone and those to come before April. I hope we shall sail in April, and I really think we shall. I shouldn't be contented a minute longer. I haven't told half or quarter of our experiences, but I must. # # #